

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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65-60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-01 ITF-05 VO-03 AID-05 SSO-00

SCA-01 IGA-01 IO-10 /105 W

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R 071925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3846

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1145

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 04108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIUM CONTINUES RELATIONS WITH SAIGON; WILL ACCEPT
SOME REFUGEES

REF: BRUSSELS 4065

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED MAY 7 AT WEEKLY
PRESS BRIEFING THAT GOB HAS REQUESTED BELGIAN AMBASSADOR
AND STAFF TO STAY ON IN SAIGON AND INSTRUCTED HIM
TO CONTACT NEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. (COMMENT:
THIS IS INDIRECT WAY OF STATING THAT BELGIUM RECOGNIZES
NEW REGIME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOB POLICY OF RECOGNIZING STATES
RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS..) ACCORDING TO INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO BELGIANS, EMBASSY IS HAVING NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES
IN SAIGON BUT HAS NOT YET HAD OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH NEW REGIME.

2. NOTING THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS HAD CLOSED
MAY 1, SPOKESMAN SAID GOB WOULD UNDERTAKE PROTECTION OF PRO-
PERTY OF MISSION (I.E., PRESUMABLY UNTIL NEW REPRESENTATIVES
ARRIVE FROM SAIGON.)
PROPERTY DOES NOT INCLUDE EMBASSY BUILDING, WHICH WAS
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HELD UNDER LEASE FROM BELGIAN LANDLORD. SPOKESMAN

INDICATED THAT BELGIANS HAVE ADVISED SOUTH VIETNAMESE
DIPLOMATS SEEKING ASYLUM TO GO FIRST TO UNHCR TO OBTAIN REFUGEE
STATUS. FOLLOWING THAT PRECEDURE GOB WILL "LOOK
FAVORABLY" ON DIPLOMATS' REQUEST FOR ASYLUM.

3. SPOKESMAN SIDESTEPED QUESTION ON WHETHER USG HAD
OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT BELGIUM ACCEPT REFUGEES FROM INDO-
CHINA, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAS BEEN

CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECT BETWEEN US AND BELGIUM AND AMONG
EC-9. HE POINTED OUT THAT CASES OF POSSIBLE REFUGEE ENTRY
INTO BELGIUM WOULD BE EXAMINED ON GROUNDS OF BOTH HUMANITARIAN
CONSIDERATIONS AND LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESSFUL ASSIMILATION INTO
BELGIAN SOCIETY. IN ANY EVENT, NUMBER OF REFUGEES ACCEPTED
"WILL BE IN HUNDREDS, NOT THOUSANDS."
FIRESTONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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